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Subject: R6; West Fertilizer, Inc. Explosion; West, Texas; NRC # 1044299
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 2:32:53 AM

West Fertilizer, Inc., West, Texas: At approximately 1950 CST on April 17, a fire and explosion at the West Fertilizer plant decimated the town of West, north of Waco, causing multiple injuries and fatalities. The exact number of injuries is unknown at this time, but the local emergency manager is reporting approximately 75 dead (includes 6 initial responders) and over 150 injured (reported unofficially to TCEQ at 0100, April 18).

A fire at the facility caused anhydrous ammonia to explode, resulting in a shock wave in the area, causing multiple fires in a six block radius. An apartment building and nursing home adjacent to the facility are severely impacted. Fires are ongoing at multiple residences, the West Middle School, and several other buildings.

The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

Multiple emergency response agencies are engaged in fire-fighting and public safety activities.

Region 6 has deployed 2 OSCs, 8 contractors and the mobile command post to the site. Additional OSCs and contractors are on standby. Air monitoring will be conducted. The OSCs will coordinate with TCEQ and multiple state and local partners on the response. ASPECT flew the area at approximately 0030, April 18. Preliminary review of the ASPECT data shows the highest concentration of ammonia is about 600 feet downwind of the fire at 60 to 100 ppm (the plume is moving to the northwest of the fire). At approximately 1/2 mile down wind, the ammonia is not detected.

TCEQ has deployed the strike team to the site.

Update as of 0200 April 18, 2013, PDO Webster